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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/561,418	12/19/2005	Joseph McCrossan	92478-8500	6542
53044 7590 06/08/2010 SNELL & WILMER L.L.P. (Panasonic) 600 ANTON BOULEVARD SUITE 1400 COSTA MESA, CA 92626				
EXAMINER				
HASAN, SYED Y				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/561,418

**Applicant(s)**

MCCROSSAN ET AL.

**Examiner**

SYED Y. HASAN

**Art Unit**

2621

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 47 - 51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 47 - 51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/US)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

**Response to Arguments**

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 47 – 51 filed on 03/08/2010 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Since new claims were presented, Murase et al (US 5907658) needed to be replaced with Kikuchi et al (US 7315690). Details for claim 1 are provided below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

4. Claim 51 provides for the use of a recording method for recording a graphics stream on a recording medium, but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dunki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd. v. Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475 (D.D.C. 1966).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 47 - 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Kikuchi et al (US 7315690).

Regarding **claim 47**, Kikuchi et al discloses a reproduction apparatus (title) comprising:

an acquire unit operable to acquire, from a recording medium, a graphics stream including a data packet and a control packet (col 3, lines 47 – 58, “According to this invention, there is provided a recording apparatus for recording data on a recording medium which includes a management area of an area, and a data area and in which data is divided into a plurality of program chains and recorded in the data area in a

hierarchical structure in which each of the program chains is constructed by a plurality of programs, one program is constructed by a plurality of cells, and one cell is constructed by a plurality of packs, each pack includes a pack header for identifying the pack and a packet having data recorded therein." illustrates reproduction from a recording medium of a management area and a data area)

the data packet including graphics data and a decode time stamp indicating a decoding time of the graphics data the decode time stamp indicating a start time of a process for decoding of the graphics data, the first presentation time stamp indicating an end time of the process (col 20, lines 44 – 55, "If the packet header 121b is a 19-byte packet header, it contains a 5-byte PTS (Presentation Time Stamp; time management information for reproduction output) and a 5-byte DTS (Decoding Time Stamp; time management information for decoding) in addition to the above 9 bytes. The PTS and DTS are described only in a video packet containing head data of 1 picture of the video stream." Illustrates dts and pts, col 18, lines 22 – 25, "Here, the start PTS of VOB 85 (VOBU\_SPTS) indicates the playback start time (start presentation time stamp (SPTS)) of the video data in the VOB 85 containing the PCI data." Illustrates start time and col 18, lines 28 - 34, "The end PTS (VOBU\_EPTS) in the VOB 85 indicates the playback end time (end presentation time stamp (EPTS)) of the video data in the VOB 85 containing the PCI data. The playback end time is the playback start time of the last picture in the last GOP in the VOB 85." Illustrates the end time)

the control packet including a second presentation time stamp indicating a presentation time which is at or after the end time (col 29, lines 5 – 22, "The decoder

sections 58, 60, 62 decode data according to the respective data formats and the set coding system and supplies the decoded data to the D/A & reproduction processing section 64. After a digital signal obtained as the result of decoding of video data is converted into an analog signal by the D/A & reproduction processing section 64, the signal is subjected to the frame rate processing, aspect process, pan-scan process and the like according to the set condition and then output to the monitor section 6. After a digital signal obtained as the result of decoding of audio data is converted into an analog signal by the D/A & reproduction processing section 64, the signal is subjected to the mixing process according to the set condition by the D/A & reproduction processing section 64 and then output to the speaker section 8. After the D/A & reproduction processing section 64 converts a digital signal obtained as the result of decoding of sub-picture data into an analog signal, the signal is output to the monitor section 6 (step S37)" illustrates presentation time stamp after decoding which is the end time).(This is the explanation provided in the spec of the instant invention for the control packet in para 0008 "the control packet has a time stamp whose value indicates a time at which the graphics data, after being decoded, is displayed combined with the video stream.")

a processor operable to

(i) start a process for decoding the graphics data at the start time, and

(ii) end the process by the end time; and a controller operable to write the

decoded graphics data in a graphics plane by the presentation time, the graphics plane being an area where the graphics data is rendered (col 9, lines 26 – 45, "The

reproduced data is transferred and stored in a data RAM section 56 by the system processor section 54 which is controlled by the system CPU section 50 which is operated in accordance with the programs stored in the system ROM/RAM section 52. The stored reproduced data is processed at the system processor section 54, which sorts the data into video data, audio data, and sub-picture data, which are supplied to the video decoder section 58, audio decoder section 60, and sub-picture decoder section 62, respectively, and are decoded at the respective decoders. The D/A and data-reproducing section 64 converts the decoded video data, audio data, and sub-picture data into an analog video signal, an analog audio signal, and an analog sub-picture signal, subjects these signal to a mixing process, and supplies the resulting video signal and sub-picture signal to the monitor section 6 and the resulting audio signal to the speaker section 8. Then, on the basis of the video signal and sub-picture signal, an image is displayed on the monitor section 6 and according to the audio signal, sound is simultaneously reproduced from the speaker section 8." Illustrates the processor decoding graphics data, start time and end time have been established above and the monitor clarifies the rendering process)

**Claims 48 and 49** are rejected based on claim 46 above.

**Claims 50 and 51** are rejected based on claim 47 with the added limitation of a recording apparatus as disclosed by Kikuchi et al (title and col 30 line 61 to col 34 line 13 illustrate the recording process which is similar to the reproducing process described above)

**Conclusion**

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure

Murase et al (US US 5907658) discloses multimedia optical disk, reproduction apparatus and method for achieving variable scene development based on interactive control

Ando et al (US 6580869) discloses recording medium of stream data including management information used to access the stream data, and recording method and playback method of the same

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Syed Y. Hasan whose telephone number is 571-270-1082. The examiner can normally be reached on 9/8/5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. Y. H./  
06/01/2010

/Thai Tran/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2621